NO OLYMPICS!

FROM TOKYO 2021 TO BRISBANE 2032

Unstoppable Voices for Abolishing the Olympics

NOlympics Action Sydney

NO OLYMPICS!
Unstoppable Voices for Abolishing the Olympics:
The 2021 Tokyo Games viewed from Australia,
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〜オーストラリアから見た2021東京大会〜
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*Some sections of this book mention events, context and official roles from 2021 which may no longer be current.

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NOlympic Day Protest
@Sydney Town Hall
(June 23, 2021)

Preface

This zine was created by Japanese activists who organised to protest against the 2021 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in Sydney. It highlights the impacts of the Games, documents the protests in Sydney, and conveys our "No!" to Australian readers, who will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Brisbane in 2032.

The hosting of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo from July to September 2021 caused widespread and devastating harm. Amid an unprecedented pandemic, the event brought over 100,000 athletes and officials to Japan, triggering a massive spread of infections. Beyond the public health crisis, the Games exacerbated social and environmental issues, including the exclusion of homeless people, reckless redevelopment, deforestation in Borneo, and the wasteful expenditure of nearly 4 trillion yen in taxpayer money. Meanwhile, poverty in Japanese society worsened, and a series of corruption scandals tied to the Olympics came to light. This sporting event bulldozed through these crises with no regard for human rights and blatant disregard for human life. The still-unresolved Fukushima nuclear disaster and its ongoing radiation impact were conveniently ignored, while the forced construction of a U.S. military base in Okinawa was deliberately hidden from public view.

These countless confronting issues made it impossible for us to remain passive. We decided to organise actions in Sydney in solidarity with the anti-Olympic movement taking place daily in Tokyo. Even during the lockdown, we continued to make our voices heard. In response to the growing calls to cancel the Tokyo Olympic Games, similar acts of solidarity were held around the world.

We understand, of course, how difficult it is to criticise the Games. Many people love sport and enjoy the Olympic and Paralympic Games as televised entertainment. However, behind the scenes, there is a history of suffering caused by the IOC, which generates enormous profits from large-scale sporting events. This suffering arises from a range of issues, including ableism, colonialism, sexism, racism, the exclusion of the poor, and the disruptive effects of redevelopment.

Popular resistance continues in places where the Olympic Games are set to take place. We seek to confront past injustices, stay focused on future challenges, and unite to build a resistance that is yet to be realised. We hope readers will join us in this movement.

February 2022
NOlympics Action Sydney

A Simplified Chronology of the Tokyo Olympics

2013 SEP

IOC General Assembly selected Tokyo to host 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

On 8 September 2013, television screens showed images of corruption-tainted politicians celebrating Tokyo's successful bid to host the Games. Led by then-Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the LDP government, the bid was promoted under the slogan "Olympics for Recovery [from the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake]." Despite widespread international concerns over ongoing leaks of contaminated water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Abe assured the world that the nuclear disaster was "under control." Meanwhile, the government had cut off support for evacuees and pressured residents to return to contaminated areas, seemingly using the Olympics as a smokescreen to divert attention from the unresolved nuclear crisis.

2015 JUL

Zaha Hadid's proposal for the new national stadium was scrapped following widespread criticism over its massive construction costs.

2016 APR

The Japan Sport Council (JSC) forcibly evicted homeless people from Meiji Park in Tokyo for the construction of the stadium.

2017 MAR

Miyashita Park in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward was forcibly sealed off to make way for Olympic redevelopment.

JUNE

The controversial anti-terror conspiracy law was enacted.

The Conspiracy Act, passed in June 2017 under the guise of a "counter-terrorism measure" for the Olympics, states that merely discussing a criminal plan between two or more people could result in arrest. This dangerous law allows for broad interpretation by authorities, posing a serious threat to political activity and freedom of expression. Despite being repealed multiple times since the war, it was hastily enacted, ignoring widespread opposition. Using the Olympic Games as a pretext, the Abe government of the time steadily laid the foundations for an authoritarian regime.

2018 NOV

Related organisations appealed to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the JSC to halt deforestation in Indonesia's Borneo region, driven by the construction of the new national stadium.

2019 JAN

French prosecutors indicted Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) President Tsunekazu Takeda on charges of bribery related to the Olympic bid.

JUL

International Anti-Olympics Event Held in Tokyo.

The week-long event was jointly organised by Hangorin no Kai (Anti-Olympics Association), which had been campaigning against the Olympics since before Tokyo's bid, along with anti-Olympics groups from Paris, Los Angeles, and Seoul, etc. It fostered global solidarity through activities like fieldwork at Games sites, demonstrations, symposia, press conferences and exchange picnics—informal gatherings where activists from around the world could connect and share a meal. During the symposium, the Anti-Olympics International Joint Statement of Solidarity, created in collaboration with each participating city, was read aloud.

2019 NOV **Due to forecasts of extreme heat in Tokyo, the marathon venue was relocated to Sapporo.**

2020 MAR **Due to the pandemic, the Games were postponed by one year.**

2021 JAN **A 'state of emergency' was declared in Tokyo following the spread of the COVID-19 infection.**

FEB **Organising Committee Chairman Mori resigned following derogatory comments about women.**

JUNE **The JOC Accounting Manager committed suicide on railway tracks.**

JUNE 23 **#NOlympicDay: national and global simultaneous actions against the Olympics took place in countries including Japan, South Korea, the USA, France, Austria, Germany, New Zealand and Australia.**

JUL **A second 'state of emergency' was declared in Tokyo within the same year.**

Brisbane, Australia was selected as the host city for the 2032 Olympic Games.

◇ **IOC Vice President John Coates's Power Harassment Issue** ◇

You may have seen the footage of Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk, from the state selected to host the 2032 Olympics in Brisbane, being publicly power-harassed by IOC Vice President John Coates. Coates pressured the Premier into attending the Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony, despite her initial plan to skip it due to pandemic concerns. This incident revealed the coercive power of the IOC. The organization itself operates as a power-harassing entity, as demonstrated by the relentless push to hold the Tokyo Olympics.

◇ **Resignation Race Just Before the Opening** ◇

Keigo Oyamada, internationally known as the musician Cornelius, was originally responsible for the music at the Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony. However, he resigned as music director on 19 July, just days before the ceremony, after an old interview resurfaced in which he boasted about bullying a disabled classmate. Similarly, comedian Kentaro Kobayashi, in charge of the ceremony's direction, resigned the day before the opening after a Jewish group pointed out that one of his past skits included a scene mocking the Holocaust. These resignations highlighted a larger issue surrounding the selection of individuals with a concerning lack of human rights awareness, which became evident in the period leading up to the Games.

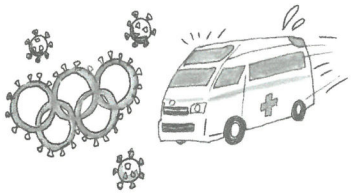
JUL 23 **Opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics (closed 8 August)**

AUG 23 **Tokyo Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony (closed 5 September)**

NO OLYMPIC
PICNIC
FREE
FOOD
SAVE
OUR
COMMU
NITY

Tokyo Olympics/Paralympics and the Delta Variant Surge

Meg H.



In August 2021, during the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, I was in Sydney, anxiously watching the unfolding situation in Tokyo. My Facebook feed was filled with heart-breaking cries from friends and acquaintances struggling against the new coronavirus. My family narrowly escaped infection, but at that moment, all I could do was pray—despite being non-religious—for the safety of my loved ones.

Reports from Japan kept pouring in from my acquaintances: ambulances wouldn't arrive when called, PCR tests couldn't be administered despite clear symptoms and high fever, health centres were unreachable by phone, and patients were told to "treat temselves at home" while struggling with pneumonia symptoms. At that time, nearly 20,000 infected people in Tokyo were waiting at home without treatment, revealing the collapse of the city's medical system. While my friends and acquaintances were unable to access hospitals and were abandoned by both the healthcare system and the government, I saw news reports of an Olympic athlete infected with COVID being treated in a hospital. Meanwhile, TV screens showed athletes continuing to compete in empty stadiums.

During the Games, held from July 1 to September 6, a total of 54,236 Olympic personnel entered Japan amid the Delta variant surge. In July, as the arrival of athletes and officials peaked, infections rose sharply, particularly in Tokyo.

According to the Tokyo Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, 863 personnel involved in the Games contracted Covid-19 throughout the event. In September, the committee revised its initial report on hospitalisations, admitting that the total was not five, as initially claimed, but 25. Under special exemptions granted by the government, athletes and officials were not required to quarantine and used the same airport routes as regular passengers. Once at the athletes' village, they were free to leave the so-called "confined bubble" for sightseeing, purchase alcohol at convenience stores, and even hold drinking parties within the village.

Meanwhile, the government repeatedly urged the public to "stay home

and avoid going out." However, the ineffective infection control measures for the Olympics and the government's contradictory messaging led many to ignore these appeals, contributing to the spread of the virus. "Why do Olympic athletes and officials get special treatment while we're told to stay home?" my friends and family in Tokyo asked in frustration. As public anger over the unfairness of the situation grew, my friends took to the streets, demanding the cancellation of the Games.

Japan never imposed a lockdown during the pandemic. Even during the Olympics, PCR testing was neither widely available nor free, particularly for asymptomatic individuals. Financial support for those who were infected was provided only once, in April 2020, amounting to 100,000 yen (as of January 2022). Many people had no choice but to continue working despite surging infections, as the proportion of workers able to work remotely was significantly lower compared to other major developed countries.

Due to Japan's persistent suppression of widespread testing and the comparatively low testing rates, the true number of infections is likely far higher than the official figures. In August, after the Olympic Games, daily cases in Tokyo alone reached approximately 6,000, with a positivity rate of around 23%. This indicated that nearly one in four people tested was positive, suggesting that many infected individuals who sought testing but couldn't access it were left uncounted.

Those who lost family members to COVID-19 before and after the Olympics due to being "abandoned at home" formed the Association of Bereaved Families of Deaths Left at Home. This group unites and communicates with other bereaved families nationwide, advocating for an accessible healthcare system that ensures proper treatment for those infected. As of 2022, their struggle continues.

Nevertheless, IOC President Bach declared the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics a "success," while the Japanese government insists there was no connection between the Games and the surge in Delta variant cases. Yet, I cannot forget the friends and acquaintances who contracted COVID-19 during that time and were denied access to hospitals, the countless lives lost, those with pre-existing conditions who succumbed due to the overwhelmed healthcare system, and the individuals still suffering from long-term health effects. I refuse to pretend they were not there.

There were countless reasons to cancel the Olympics even before the pandemic, but forcing the Games to proceed during an unprecedented global crisis was a folly. The IOC's blatant disregard for human life, exploiting the Olympics as a vehicle for profit and power, has been exposed for all to see. I sincerely hope no other country or community is ever subjected to such a tragedy again. Even without a pandemic, the Olympics are built on the exclusion and exploitation of the vulnerable. A festival of peace? Don't make me laugh. I will never forget the anxiety and anger I felt during those days.

Can you truly enjoy a sporting event run by a corrupt, mafia-like organisation?

NO!OLYMPICS 2021
in TOKYO
CLIMATE CHANGE
猛暑
TAX
TAX
TAX
TAX
Intense high heat & high humidity is predicted
3rd Covid-19 emergency statement NOW!
Lowest vaccination rate in G7
ワクチン不平等
Nuclear emergency statement since FUKUSHIMA 2011~
原発
Poverty getting serious
EVICTION OF LOCALS & POOR
GENTRIFICATION
貧困
80% of Japanese oppose Olympic!
とても無理です。
TWITTER
#NOlympics_Action_Sydney

DOCUMENTING ANTI-OLYMPICS ACTIVISM IN SYDNEY: 2021

Olympics Action Sydney
Twitter: @action_sydney
Facebook: @action.sydney

Early June 2021, Sydney

Made a banner saying "Against the Forced Olympics" at the squat. Started a social media account to share updates about the Olympics in Japanese and English.

12 June @ The Rocks, Sydney

A silent video titled "11 Reasons Why We Can't Afford the Olympics" was filmed with the Sydney Opera House in the background and shared on social media. Messages including "Ditch the Olympics, Deal with the COVID Crisis" and "Funding for Our People Doing It Tough, NOT the Olympics" were conveyed using panels.

13 June @ Marrickville, Sydney

Graffiti opposing the Olympics was created in the free mural space, featuring designs of people holding placards. In front of the mural, NOlympics Action Sydney members also held placards, including messages such as "80% of People Say No to the Olympics" and "Let's Save Lives, Not the Olympics." Around this time, many posts circulated on social media with hashtags like #OlympicsVeryImpossible.

23 June @ Sydney Town Hall

One month before the Tokyo Olympics opening, global action against the Games took place simultaneously in cities including Sydney, Tokyo, Paris, and LA as 'NOlympic Day.'

In central Sydney, on a weekday evening, we displayed banners, gave speeches and →

View our NOlympic Day speech 🔽
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1Oy0i4DCZc

16 July @ Brisbane

Around this time, English-language media coverage of the Tokyo Olympics began to increase. Members of NOlympics Action Sydney appeared remotely on Brisbane community radio station 4ZZZ's program "Paradigm Shift" to report on the situation in Tokyo just before the Games. They were joined by Indigenous Australian leader and Queensland state MP Amy McMahon, who shared her perspectives on various aspects of the upcoming 2032 Brisbane Olympics.

Radio link:
http://4zzz.org.au/program/paradigm-shift/2021-07-16

green left

sections media get involved

Should the Tokyo Olympics be cancelled?

Kerry Smith, June 24, 2021
Issue 1314 · Australia

→ distributed handwritten flyers to raise awareness about the devastation surrounding the Tokyo Olympics. Passers-by who showed interest were surprised to learn about the COVID-19 situation, poverty, and other issues in Japan. Many expressed their support for Japan by holding up placards and agreeing to have their photos taken. Our campaign was covered by the Australian left-wing media outlet *Greenleft*.

Comment from the member interviewed:

"I participated in a radio interview with my friend Alex, a fellow anti-nuclear campaigner, interpreting for me. In 2019, I called for a boycott of the Olympics on a local radio station in Byron Bay, Australia. This time, in addition to the pandemic, I raised concerns about several troubling questions surrounding the Games, such as the forced exclusion of homeless people and the concealment of issues related to nuclear power plants. I also highlighted that anti-Olympic movements have been taking place across the country. It was disappointing, however, that the radio host seemed defensive about the Olympics."

FREE THE DETAINEE
MUSASHINO 7.16
爆竹無罪
SMASH OLYMPIC POLICING!
NO OLYMPICS in TOKYO
XXX
オリンピックXX強行反対
반대
#NOlympics_Action_Sydney
DITCH THE OLYMPICS!
オリンピックより命
とても
粉砕
OLYMPICS KILLS THE POOR

Action During Covid 19 Lockdown!

Following the spread of the Delta variant, Sydney entered lockdown on 25 June. With restrictions on outdoor activities preventing direct street action, we shifted our focus to online initiatives, including sharing videos, images, and Japanese translations of English news on social media. The lockdown lasted 106 days.

We filmed a video clip of pull-ups and football challenges titled #NOlympicsLockdownChallenge during permitted outdoor exercise. It was shared on Twitter and other platforms with the message, "We love sports, but the Olympics break our hearts."

On 21 July, when the 2032 Brisbane Olympics were officially confirmed, we released a video questioning the Games. The video highlighted the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) bribery scandal during the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the AUD 2.1 billion loss incurred by the city of Sydney, and the mounting problems surrounding the Tokyo Olympics.

Olympic Committee for money
Mr. John Coates (President of the
"The president of the Australian Olympic Committee, John Coates, has acknowledged bribes (US$35,000 each) paid to Kenyan and Ugandan officials to land these Games.
"お金のための五輪委員会"
news.com.au
0:09 / 2:46

30 Oct @ Marrickville, Sydney

We created graffiti protesting Olympic-related repression in solidarity with the man who was unjustly arrested and detained for setting off firecrackers to protest the Games during a torchlight ceremony in Musashino, Tokyo, in June (see p.11, image above). On the following day, 31 October, at a rally in Tokyo supporting him for his trial, our message sent from Sydney was read out, and the graffiti was shared with participants.

誰も幸せにならない
「平和の祭典」？
Olympism is
a highway to misery

#五輪どころじゃない
#CanceltheTokyoOlympics

NO OLYMPICS
殺す命マモレ
NO NO
NO NO
いらない五輪
NO OLYMPICS

CANCEL NOW!
今からでも中止

No! to Olympic Oppression: Tokyo Games Built on Repression, Exclusion and Control

Meg H.

Wherever the Olympics are held, excessive security, surveillance and the repression of protesters are recurring themes. Since Tokyo was awarded the 2020 Games in 2013, and throughout the lead-up to, during, and after the 2021 event, numerous human rights violations and acts of police repression have taken place. Below is a summary of some of these incidents.

Following the decision to host the Tokyo Olympics, violent exclusion and repression of homeless people protesting the redevelopment and stadium construction across the city began. In my view, the police crackdown on the homeless movement symbolises the broader Olympic repression. The public should have raised their voices against the Olympic deception when the evictions and repression of the homeless first started.

In 2016, homeless individuals were forcibly evicted from Meiji Park in Tokyo, with no alternative plans offered, to make way for the construction of the Olympic Stadium. In 2017, Miyashita Park in Shibuya was also forcibly closed, and protests by homeless individuals and their supporters were suppressed. A legal case concerning these forced evictions is still ongoing (as of February 2022), with two homeless individuals and four support organisations as plaintiffs. I remember attending protests at the site (the park has since been transformed into a commercial complex with luxury brand stores). The closure and redevelopment of these parks, which had served as living spaces for homeless people and sites for soup kitchens and other community activities, followed one after another after the decision to host the Olympics.

Ahead of the 2021 Olympic Games, an additional 140 surveillance cameras were installed in the streets and stations of Tokyo. Given Japan's history of significant discrimination against foreigners, this likely led to an increased rate of excessive questioning, particularly targeting non-white individuals perceived as foreign based on their appearance. The racism within the Japanese police force is internationally recognised, and in December of the same year, the U.S. Embassy in Japan issued a warning to its citizens about the widespread practice of 'racial profiling' by Japanese authorities.

In August, just before the Paralympic Games began, a student was charged with removing an Olympic banner displayed at Kunitachi Station in Tokyo. The student explained that the act was a protest against the Olympics, emphasising that the reconstruction of the Tōhoku region, despite being promoted as a central focus of the Games, had made little progress (Kyodo News, 20 Aug 2021). Given the widespread frustration among those affected by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which caused extensive damage in the Tōhoku region, it is likely that many people supported the student's action.

In early July, just before the Tokyo Olympics, during the torch relay in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture, a person along the roadside shouted, "No to the Olympics!"

while spraying water from a toy water pistol at the torch held by a runner. I remember feeling a surge of excitement as I watched the scene on the news, thinking, "We did it!" However, moments later, the individual was surrounded by police and arrested. The authorities, unsure whether the water pistol contained only water, suspected it might have been something dangerous, and as a result, she was detained for 17 days.

Japan's detention system is unique in the world, often referred to as a substitute prison, as it allows the detention of unsentenced individuals for up to 23 days without formal charges. This deeply problematic system can mentally break down innocent people, isolating them from society through prolonged confinement.

In another incident on July 16, during the torch ceremony in Musashino City, Tokyo, a person expressed his protest by setting off firecrackers. He was wrongfully arrested and charged with "forcible obstruction of business." Although he only set off firecrackers without causing harm to anyone, he was arrested in the intense summer heat and detained for nearly four months, only being released on December 1, when the weather had turned cold. Members of NOlympics Action Sydney showed solidarity by painting a mural in support of him while he was in detention and sent photographs of the mural along with a solidarity message to the anti-Olympic repression rally held in Tokyo. The "Musashino Olympics oppression trial" is still ongoing as of February 2022.

During the opening ceremony of the Paralympic Games on August 24, police used excessive force against protesters outside the venue. A large group gathered to demonstrate in front of the Japan Olympic Committee (JOC) building, located next to the stadium, which had been built after displacing homeless people and evicting local residents. Police violently attempted to corral the protesters into a confined space. Amid the chaos, one protester was arrested, and another was struck on the back of the head, causing bleeding. The arrested individual was released after nine days, but his home was searched out of harassment, and no compensation was provided to the injured protester.

Amidst the violent repression described above, the Olympic and Paralympic Games were forced through in Tokyo, even as Covid-19 cases surged dramatically due to the unprecedented pandemic.

Countless other instances of excessive security and repression occurred, including surveillance, covert photography, and the tailing of protesters—too many to list here. Alongside the homeless, activists who opposed the forced evictions and exclusions faced raids, forced DNA collection, court summonses and constant surveillance. Protests against these repressive measures have continued.

During this period, Hangorin no Kai initiated a campaign to document these acts of repression and policing, urging people to share their photos and videos on Twitter using the hashtag #Olympicpolicing. Many people contributed, resulting in a documented record in both Japanese and English.

Repression is already taking place in the cities set to host future Olympic Games. We refuse to support a sports festival founded on violence and exclusion! The police must halt the repression. The protests of the dispossessed are legitimate.

Global Map of Olympic Resistance (2016-)

■ Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) : Hosted in 2016

The hosting of the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro exacerbated forced development, exclusion in impoverished neighbourhoods and police violence. The historic Maracanã Stadium, renovated with a massive budget, pushed the poor further away, while nearby indigenous residents were forcibly evicted. In protest, students occupied university campuses under the slogan "Education over Olympics," and residents of the favelas and other marginalised groups, voiced their opposition. Across the country, actions aimed at extinguishing the Olympic torch relay took place, with residents filling buckets of water and waiting for the torch to arrive.

■ Pyeongchang (South Korea): Hosted in 2018

According to nature conservation organisations, between 210,000 and 400,000 trees, including 500-year-old trees and valuable ecosystems, were cut down in pristine forests to build alpine skiing facilities. This area, which had protected its virgin forests during the Japanese occupation in World War II—when the Japanese military logged the forests to finance their war efforts—saw the forced eviction of 50 agricultural families, devastating the local community. The local government continues to grapple with the massive debt incurred by the development. Large-scale deforestation was also carried out for the construction of another stadium. The Twitter account "Solidarity Against the PyeongChang Olympics /평창올림픽반대연대" (@OlympicDisaster) has been providing updates on this issue since the Games.

■Tokyo (Japan): 2020→Hosted in 2021

After a one-year postponement due to the pandemic, the Tokyo Olympics were held under a state of emergency, despite 80% of public opinion opposing the event. Since Tokyo secured its bid in 2013, just two years after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster, numerous issues have come to light, including bribery and corruption, the exclusion of homeless people, the destruction of communities through redevelopment, and the neglect of nuclear disaster victims. The Anti-Olympics group Hangorin no Kai/NO OLYMPICS 2020 (Twitter: @hangorinnokai), which had been protesting since Tokyo's bid, forged global solidarity with movements in other Olympic host cities. Meanwhile, a range of groups—including feminists, disabled people, medical professionals, students, scholars, and nuclear disaster survivors —voiced their opposition from diverse perspectives.

■Beijing (China): Hosted in 2022

Beijing, like other host cities, faced issues such as evictions and repression. Meanwhile, several countries launched diplomatic boycotts, citing China's "human rights issues." However, this approach—distinguishing between "good Olympics" and "bad Olympics" by focusing solely on China's human rights violations without opposing the Olympics themselves—revealed a deep contradiction. In reality, there is no such thing as a "good Olympics." The protest group StopBeijing2022 (Twitter: @StopBeijing2022) continued to voice its opposition to the Beijing Games through online activism.

■Paris (France): Hosted in 2024

The Paris Olympics took place amidst the devastation of war and violence in Ukraine, Palestine and other parts of the world. As with previous games, the event saw the mass deployment of military and police forces to suppress protests and forcibly remove homeless people from streets in various locations. On the day of the opening ceremony, a global solidarity action was held in support of the Indigenous people of New Caledonia, who were resisting French colonial violence. Local protests against environmental destruction also took place at surfing venues in French Polynesia.

■ Scheduled for 2028: Los Angeles (USA)

In Los Angeles, where housing issues are becoming increasingly severe, opposition to the Olympics continues to grow. This resistance is driven by concerns over redevelopment, the worsening conditions for people living in poverty, and the fight for improved housing. Even in the lead-up to the Games, exclusion has already intensified. In March 2021, a community of unhoused people living in LA's Echo Park Lake faced forced eviction. Groups like Street Watch LA (Twitter: @StreetWatchLA) and NOlympics LA (Twitter: @NOlympicsLA) remain active, sharing information and organizing protests both locally and online.

■ Scheduled for 2032: Brisbane (Australia)

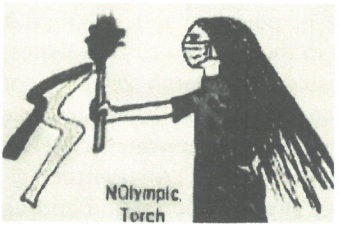
The decision to award the 2032 Olympics to Brisbane, with no competing candidate cities, reflects the declining appeal of hosting the Games. Local opposition to the development plans has already emerged, led by Green Party councillors who have been organizing public meetings to address the issue. Jonathan Sriranganathan, a city councillor from the Greens, voiced his concerns on Twitter (@jonathan_sri), stating: "We are strongly opposed to Brisbane hosting the Olympics. The city council made the decision to bid without any public consultation. I'm worried that low-income residents will be forced out of their homes due to rising rents caused by the Olympics and that there will be increased spending on unnecessary sports facilities."

Voices Silenced in the Shadows of the Olympics

You may be familiar with the iconic "Black Power Salute" at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, when two Black athletes raised their fists high into the sky in protest. However, the tragic events of the Tlatelolco Massacre, which unfolded in the shadows of those Games, remain largely forgotten. Just ten days before the Olympics, hundreds of dissidents—students and citizens demanding revolution—were massacred by the government as they gathered in a plaza in Mexico City. Despite this horrific tragedy, the Games went ahead as planned, without cancellation or boycott. Today, only the powerful image of the Black Power Salute endures, while the voices silenced in Tlatelolco fade from memory. We must remember the hidden histories of how cries for justice and change have been suppressed in the name of the Olympics.

To the Future Hosts of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics: Message from Hangorin No Kai (Anti-Olympic Association)

In 2032, Brisbane, Australia's third-largest city, is set to host the Olympic Games. The Tokyo-based Anti-Olympics group Hangorin No Kai, which has been campaigning against the Olympics since 2013, has an important message for the people of Australia.



Credit: Hangorin No Kai

The Olympic and Paralympic Games' promises of "peace" and "economic benefits" are nothing but lies. Over the eight years since Tokyo was awarded the bid in 2013, we have witnessed—and protested against—these false claims to the point of utter disgust.

Public facilities, such as parks, have been commercialized, while Olympic-focused developments, tailored to tourists, have taken priority. Olympic education has been imposed on children to foster nationalism, and democracy has been undermined. The costs of hosting the Games have been inflated, with residents left in the dark about how their money was spent. Countless trees were felled, both in Japan and abroad. Meanwhile, the unresolved nuclear disaster and the harsh realities faced by those enduring frequent natural disasters were conveniently ignored, only to be exploited to stage the 'emotional drama' and 'victory' of the Olympics.

However, the anger surrounding the decision to host the Olympics during a pandemic—an event that starkly revealed how a few powerful individuals profited while lives were sacrificed—reached its peak, igniting a major protest movement. While we were unable to stop the Games from happening, criticism of the IOC is growing, and the future of the Games is now at stake. It is time to unite with residents of past and future host cities to abolish the Olympic and Paralympic Games and hold the IOC accountable. We don't need the Olympics in Brisbane or anywhere else.

Hangorin No Kai

Afterword

The year Tokyo was awarded the bid for the Olympics was just two years after the devastating March 2011 earthquake and tsunami. At that time, many families were still searching for the bodies of their loved ones swept away by the tsunami. Countless others remained (and still remain) displaced, forced to live as evacuees due to radiation from the Fukushima nuclear disaster, with no support from the government. Despite this ongoing suffering, the government pursued its Olympic bid as if these people and their struggles didn't exist—a decision that was fundamentally wrong from the very beginning. The Olympics have repeatedly excluded and oppressed minorities around the world, causing harm wherever they take place. It's time for the IOC to acknowledge its history of mistakes, issue a sincere apology, and bring an end to the Games. There is no such thing as a "good" Olympics. We don't want the Olympics—anywhere! (MH)

I will never forget what a Japanese passer-by I met during our street protests in Sydney said: "I want the [Japanese] government to prioritize measures against COVID, and I want to return to Japan as soon as possible." Hearing about the dire situation in Japan—where the Tokyo Olympics were being forced through despite the ongoing COVID crisis—sparked outrage, even among my friends in Japan, who are not usually interested in politics. This collective frustration and urgency inspired us to take action, and that's how NOlympics Action Sydney was born. These Olympics were held to serve the interests of corporations, the IOC, and national prestige—not the people of Japan or the athletes. We hope this zine serves as a meaningful resource to help people remember this truth. (SN)

Reference:

Hangorin No Kai, ed. *OLYMPICS KILL THE POOR: We don't want the Olympic and Paralympic Games anywhere else*. Impact Shuppankai, 2021.

"The campaign against the 'Rio Olympics' that the media did not tell us about: Interview with Misako Ichimura." OurPlanet-TV. https://www.ourplanet-tv.org/38566/

Rainforest Action Network, website http://japan.ran.org/?p=1326

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To the Future Hosts of the 2032 Brisbane Olympics:

The Olympics has long disregarded, excluded, and harmed society's most vulnerable. The 2021 Tokyo Games, held amidst a global pandemic, left devastating impacts on the society. An overwhelmed healthcare system left many untreated with tragic consequences. The construction of new stadiums displaced local residents and homeless communities. All of this unfolded while Japan's nuclear emergency declaration, in place since 2011, remained unresolved. This is not just Japan's story—it could become yours. Now is the time to listen to voices of resistance from Japan and beyond. Together, let's ensure that no more lives are sacrificed for the Games.

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